

# 2015 Progress Report



William Bogdan



Sheila Romano



Self advocates rally at the Capitol in March 2015 and speak with their legislators about the importance of living in homes in the community.

Federal Fiscal Year  
 2015

October 2014-  
 September 2015

## Message from the Chairperson and Director



The mission of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD) is “to help lead change in Illinois so all people developmental disabilities are able to exercise their right to equal opportunity and freedom.” Leading change is a lofty goal but one that our Council fully embraces.

In 2015 we joined the nation in celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). We know that there is still much work to be done to achieve the vision of equal opportunity for all.

In remembering the past year, Illinois faced many challenges. Through it all, advocates remained vigilant to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are supported to lead healthy, safe, productive lives aligned with their preferences.

Today we challenge ourselves to continue the work to achieve the goals established by the ADA a quarter of a century ago. Through our work together we can create systems that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live the lives they want. What we do today and over the next year will influence what life will be like in 2040.

Please follow ICDD’s effort in the coming year and read on to hear about activities and accomplishments of 2015.

Sincerely,

*William Bogdan*, Chairperson     *Sheila T Romano*, Ed. D. Director

## The Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities:

- Is a federally funded state agency (20 ILCS 4010) with a budget of \$2.2 million;
- Is guided in mission by the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act law;
- Collaborates with state and local agencies to make changes in the systems that help people with developmental & intellectual disabilities.
- Has a governing board with a majority of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families;
- Demonstrates new approaches in services and support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities;

# 2015 Progress Report

## COUNCIL GOAL 1

Illinois service systems are rebalanced so that people with developmental disabilities

People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities will have:

- a choice where to live that is affordable, inclusive and accessible.
- the supports they need to live successfully in a community of their choice, not in an institutional setting.

2015 Highlights:

- New partnerships developed for supportive housing which welcome individuals with Intellectual/ developmental disabilities;
- Policymakers and lawmakers were educated through the Going Home campaign about the benefits of people with developmental disabilities living in the community;
- Prior collaboration and study resulted in the Department of Human Services- Division of Developmental Disabilities bringing vision for change under the ICDD funded Life Choices Initiative. Stakeholders across Illinois were involved in six workgroups to help redesign the system.
- Two providers began offering support to individuals with I/DD in a new way to allow them to explore and engage with their communities in a real and personal way.

## COUNCIL GOAL 2

Illinois' culture sees people with developmental disabilities as people leading lives like others in their communities.

People with Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities: will have:

- the chance to attend early education and college with the supports they need.
- knowledge, confidence, self-esteem and pride.

2015 Highlights:

- Two community colleges educated students with intellectual disabilities on their campuses in inclusive programs.
- Over 450 people joined their voices at the 10th annual Speak Up and Speak Out Summit. ICDD provided consumer stipends to self advocates and families to attend conferences.
- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities & family members have become more educated and continue their advocacy for systems change.
- Four providers/entities reached out to communities to demonstrate new ways to engage people in connecting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to activities of interest in their home communities.
- Eight child care and early education programs attained an Award of Excellence in Inclusion, through training and technical assistance from an ICDD grant to achieve the quality standards required.



Angie 's life possibilities grow through Life Like Any Other project.

Edwardsville - an unlikely place for a revolution in housing. As one advocate said about supportive housing, "News of this has spread like wildfire downstate."



Brandon brings birthday surprise to his mentor Meagan at Heartland Community College.

## 2015 Progress Report

### COUNCIL GOAL 3

People with developmental disabilities of working age are supported to build personal assets through employment aligned with personal choice.

**People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: will have:**

- supports/skills for the job market and have jobs of choice at livable wages.
- employment as an option for everyone.

#### 2015 Highlights:

- An ICDD project brought customized employment to Chicago suburbs. Four school districts, 5 employment providing entities, and a parent cooperative jointly trained in customized employment and learned from ICDD's project's experience.
- Eight businesses have embraced customized employment; ten people became employed directly by an ICDD project. 40 more people have jobs through partner providers and 15 have jobs through a Department of Human Services-Division of Rehabilitation pilot project contract the ICDD project received through its demonstrated results.
- Two Chicago high schools assumed leadership of a north and south side chapter of a job developer network including staff from 35 Chicagoland providers. This network trained 171 vocational staff in a demand side employment service model.



Daniel at work in a Chicago restaurant



Rally at the Capitol

### COUNCIL GOAL 4

The lives and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities are a conscious part of discussion in the public sphere

**People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: will have:**

- a statewide self advocacy organization led by self advocates.
- leadership training by self advocates.

#### 2015 Highlights:

- The Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance for Change (The Alliance) has 22 groups/organizations across Illinois.
- Self-advocates (at both local and state levels) are asked to participate on committees, task forces, etc. Sixteen self-advocates trained in leadership and 6 had leadership roles on boards, committees and coalitions.
- One hundred five self-advocates trained through the Alliance for the Operation: Community Access Campaign. Local activities to promote the campaign were organized and led by self-advocates in 12 communities.



Julie and Sarah at the 2015 Speak Up and Speak Out Summit

## In Memory Jennifer Harrison



Jennifer, our Investment Coordinator, passed away on January, 8, 2016. We will miss her generous spirit.

## Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

### STAFF

Sheila T. Romano,  
Director

Valencia Elzy

Lia Ghelaidos

Margaret Harkness

Janinna Hendricks

Vanessa Morris

Sandy Ryan

### Chicago Office

100 W. Randolph Street  
10-600  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Voice 312-814-2080  
Fax 312-814-7141

### Springfield Office

830 S. Spring Street  
Springfield, IL 62704  
Voice 217-782-9696  
Fax 217-524-5339

TTY 888-261-2717

[www.state.il.us/agency/ICDD](http://www.state.il.us/agency/ICDD)

## Our Council Members

### Individuals

William Bogdan,  
Chairperson  
Diana Braun  
Cathy Christensen  
Brian Dixon  
Bonnie Dohogne  
Deb Goodman  
Brad Guidi  
Trevor Halfacre  
JJ Hanley  
Abbey Heins  
Mario Johnson  
Jose Mendez  
Jose Ovalle  
Barbara Pritchard  
Carole Rosen  
Vincent Smith  
Jeffrey Stauter  
Julie Stover  
Dan Winters.

### Agencies

Equip for Equality  
IL Department of Children & Family Services  
IL Department of Healthcare & Family Services  
IL Department of Human Services  
•Bureau of Maternal & Infant Health  
•Division of Developmental Disabilities  
•Division of Rehabilitation Services  
IL Department on Aging  
IL Governor's Office of Management & Budget  
IL State Board of Education  
University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Disability & Human Development

### Total ICDD FFY 2015 Expenditures \$2,660,672

■ Employment  
■ Advocacy & Educating Policymakers  
■ Service Systems  
■ Culture Change

